

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 17, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable J. Randolph Babbitt  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Secretary LaHood and Administrator Babbitt:

We, as members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation, write in strong support of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport's (LANOIA) request for discretionary grants from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) as LANOIA continues to seek effective solutions to the challenges facing the airport system and to improve safety and service to the travelling public.

Specifically, LANOIA has submitted or will be submitting grant applications for the following forthcoming and pending projects:

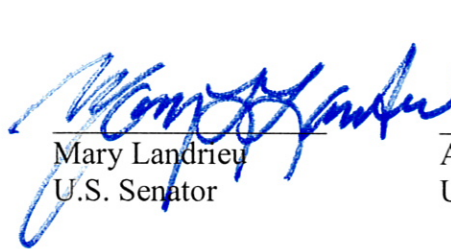
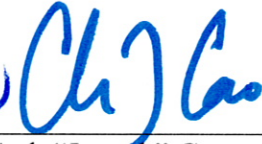
Airfield Lighting Vault	\$ 3,281,248
Apron Rehabilitation	\$36,400,261
North Perimeter Road	\$ 6,773,333
Runway 6/24 Conversion	\$ 5,869,620
East Extension of Taxiway Golf	\$10,601,755

The total cost of these projects is \$62,926,217, of which LANOIA is requesting \$44,694,663 in AIP funds. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) committed to a \$7,000,000 Phase 1 grant for the Apron Rehabilitation.

The FAA and LANOIA have proven to be effective partners in improving the infrastructure at the Airport in recent years. Further, FAA grants have improved safety and operations at LANOIA, improving airport infrastructure for the travelling public's safety and convenience and benefitting the economy of Southeast Louisiana.

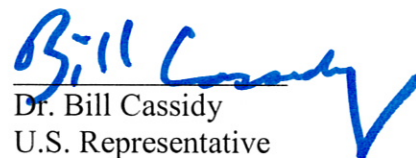
Because of these positive effects, we strongly urge the FAA to favorably consider these future grant applications, and thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

   
Mary Landrieu Anh "Joseph" Cao  
U.S. Senator U.S. Representative

   
Steve Scalise Charlie Melancon  
U.S. Representative U.S. Representative

   
Dr. John Fleming Rodney Alexander  
U.S. Representative U.S. Representative

  
Dr. Bill Cassidy  
U.S. Representative